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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2006

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Report Highlights:

Export prices increased slightly in response to continued strengthening Thai baht. Only one rice exporter and one miller won last week's tender.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Dec. 12):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	512	500	485	-	525	475	490	498	496
WR 100 B	314	307	313	-	312	312	308	311	311
PB 5%	311	318	300	-	312	314	300	309	310
WR 5%	305	302	305	-	308	302	303	304	304
WR 10%	300	297	300	-	304	298	298	300	300
WR 15%	297	292	290	-	298	289	293	293	293
WR 25%	280	270	277	-	280	273	288	278	277
WR 35%	277	-	-	-	-	269	-	273	270
A 1 SUP	234	-	225	-	226	230	225	228	225
A 1 SPEC	232	-	223	-	224	-	223	226	223
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 35.30 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Despite continued softening domestic prices, export prices continued to increase, particularly for low quality rice, due to continued strengthening of the Thai baht (currently 35.3 baht/US\$ vs. 35.5 baht/US\$ in the previous week). Domestic prices weakened due to new supplies entering the market. Also, on December 8, 2006, the Government released white rice stocks of 55,061 tons (5 percent grade) out of the tender of 200,000 tons to one of the leading exporters (Chiyaporn Rice) with renegotiated prices at U.S. \$288 - 293/MT, FOB, closer to market prices. Meanwhile, fragrant rice stocks were released to a miller (Surin Tip Rice Mill) in the amount of 1,727 tons out of the tender of 200,000 ton at higher prices of around 15,300 baht/ton, an increase of around 200 baht/ton from the first tender.

Thai rice exporters expect that the Iranian delegates, who planned to meet with the Thai Government and rice exporters this week, are unlikely to conclude deals for 500,000 tons of white rice as they will hold out for relatively cheaper Vietnamese rice. Although the Vietnamese rice export ban is still in place, exporters believe the ban will be lifted next month as new supplies enter the Vietnamese market.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
OCT 22	128,190	98,969	3,894	4,150	-6.2
OCT 29	110,512	104,849	4,005	4,263	-6.1
NOV 5	144,997	120,644	4,150	4,372	-5.1
NOV 12	92,573	119,068	4,242	4,431	-4.3
NOV 19	75,266	105,837	4,317	4,512	-4.3
NOV 26	82,884	98,930	4,440	4,585	-4.0
DEC 3	81,743	83,117	4,482	4,672	-4.1
DEC 10	88,016	81,977	4,570	4,760	-4.0

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Dec. 4-10, 2006 totaled 88,016 tons, up 6,273 tons from the previous week's total, and up 6,039 tons from the four-week moving average of 81,977 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Dec. 10, 2006 totaled 4,570,082 tons, as compared with 4,760,021 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Nov. 29, 2006, amounted to 6,756,391 tons, up 2.1 percent from 6,616,959 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Nov. 20-24, Nov. 27 – Dec. 1, and Dec. 4-8, 2006 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Nov. 20-24	Nov. 27 – Dec. 1	Dec. 4-8
weekly sales	109,023	137,278	110,817
4 week sum	399,461	474,730	526,887
4 week mov. avg.	99,865	118,683	131,722
Total weekly sales	5,390,287	5,527,565	5,638,382

End of Report.